Bonded child labour

486. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news report under the caption "10 m. children are bonded labourers" which appeared in the National Herald of the 26th January, 1990 regarding bonded child labour in the country;

(b) if so, what is Government's assessment about the number of child bonded workers;

(c) what steps are being taken to get them released and to pay them the amount payable to such liberated workers; and

(d) whether Government propose to take any firm steps against the employers engaged in keeping bonded labour?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The responsibility for identification, release and rehabilitation of Bonded Labour under the Bonded Labour System (Abolition Act, 1976 is that of the State Governments concerned. As on 31-3-1989, the State Governments had reported identification of 2,42,618 Bonded Labourers. Under the Act, no distinction has been made between 'child' and 'adult' bonded labourer'

(d) The enforcement of the provisions of the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976 are reviewed from time to time by the Ministry of Labour and State Governments advised to take various steps in the matter of identification and rehabilitation. Recently, a letter was addressed to all the Chief Ministers to ensure proper enforcement of various labour laws in the unorganised sector, including the Bonded labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976.

Availability of cheap power, machines and other agricultural inputs

487. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) what schemes, if any, have lately been laid down and what steps have been taken to ensure easy and cheap availability of power and machines and other modern agriculture inputs to small and marginal farmers; and

(b) what is the percentage of agricultural produce contributed at present by small and marginal farmers and how for it is proposed to be increased by the end of the 8th Five Year Plan Period?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL): (a) In order to ensure easy and cheap availability of power and machines and other modern agriculture inputs to small & marginal farmers, the following Central/Centrally Sponsored Scheme are in operation:

(1) Jaldhara.

(2) Establishment of Farmers' Agro-Service Centres for customs hiring and popularisation of improved implements and hand tools.

(3) Enrcouraging irrigation through the use of Sprinklers/Drip System, Hydrams, Water Turbines, man and animal operated.

(4) Assistance to Small & Marginal Farmers for Increasing Agricultural Production.

(5) Lab to Land Programme.

(6) Integrated Rural Development Programme

Besides above, following steps have also been taken to ensure easy availability of power and other inputs to all categories of farmers including small & marginal farmers;

(i) Power and water rates are subsidised.

(ii) Fertiliser Soil amendments and pesticides are made available at subsidised price.

(iii) For easy and timely availability of fertiliser in rainfed, remote and inaccessible areas, assistance is being provided for opening of retail outlets/depots. In addition a binding has been put on fertiliser manufacturers to supply at least 10% of the total allocations in small bags of 25 kgs.

(iv) Reduction to the extent of 1.5 to 2.5% w.e.f. 1st March, 1988 for loans upto Rs. 15,000 has been allowed.

(v) Seeds are supplied at concessional price and subsidy ranges from Rs. 150 to Rs. 250 per Quintal.

(vi) Subsidy to the extent of 25% to small, 33-1/3% to marginal and 50% to tribal farmers belonging to the category of small & marginal is being provided under the Central/ Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Land Development works, Minor Irrigation works, water saving and water lifting devices, agricultural implements and hand tools. However, seed minikits of pre-release and released varieties are made available at nominal cost.

(b) No separate crop production statistics are being collected in respect of small & marginal farmers.

वसंत कुन्ज में आवंटितियों को पीने के पानी की सप्लाई

488. **श्री अश्विनी कुमार:** क्या शहरी विकास मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि दिल्ली विकास प्राधिकरण द्वारा वसंत कुंज (मसूदपुर) स्थित निम्न आय श्रेणी तथा अन्य श्रेणियों के फ्लैटों का कब्जा आवंटितियों को इस प्रकार का लिखित वचन देने पर दे दिया गया है कि वे पानी की सुविधा के बगैर फ्लैटों को स्वीकार करते हैं, यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं;

(ख) क्या यह भी सच है कि आवंटितियों को पानी अभी तक मुहैया नही कराया गया है ; और

(ग) उन्हे कब तक पानी मुहैया कराये जाने की संभावना है ?

शहरी विकास मंत्री (श्री मुरासोली मारन) : (क) जी, नही।

(ख) और (ग) वसन्त कुंज के सभी आवन्टियों को पानी मिल रहा है। तथापि मसूदपुर के निम्न आय वर्ग के फ्लैटों में, पानी की आपूर्ति में कुछ कठिनाई है, जहां अभी तक केवल 5 या 6 आवन्टियों ने फ्लैटों का कब्जा किया है और उन्हे पानी की आपूर्ति टैंकरों द्वारा की जा रही है।

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489. SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA:

SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question No. 1203 given in Rajya Sabha on 28-7-1989 and state:

(a) what disciplinary action has been taken against the ten Regional